

AMENDMENT**In the Claims**

1-17. (canceled)

18. (withdrawn) A method to prepare a modified nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding at least a first and second module of a modular PKS, wherein said first module is immediately N-terminal to said second module and wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a mutation such that the catalytic domain of the ketosynthase of the first module of said encoded PKS is inactivated, said encoding nucleotide sequence operably linked to control sequences for its expression,

which method comprises effecting said mutation in said nucleic acid molecule.

19. (currently amended) A method to prepare an erythromycin derivative ~~antibiotic~~ which method comprises adding a ~~heterologous and recombinantly produced macrolactone polyketide other than 6-deoxyerythronolide B (6-dEB)~~ to the culture medium of a strain of *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* a 6-dEB derivative produced in a recombinant organism other than *Saccharopolyspora erythrae* [;]] and culturing said *S. erythraea* in said medium so as to convert said 6-dEB derivative into an erythromycin derivative ~~macrolactone polyketide into an antibiotic~~; and

extracting the erythromycin derivative ~~antibiotic~~ from the medium.

20-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 ~~[[23]]~~ wherein said 6-dEB derivative ~~14-member macrolactone polyketide~~ is 14-propyl 6-dEB 15 methyl 6-dEB (Formula 6 as depicted in Figure 3), or 14-desmethyl-14-phenyl 6-dEB (Formula 7 as depicted in Figure 3).